

BACK TO PRABHUPADA

The magazine of the real Hare Krishna movement

"Defeating tyranny in the realm of thought"

Issue 3, Spring 2004

www.iskconirm.com

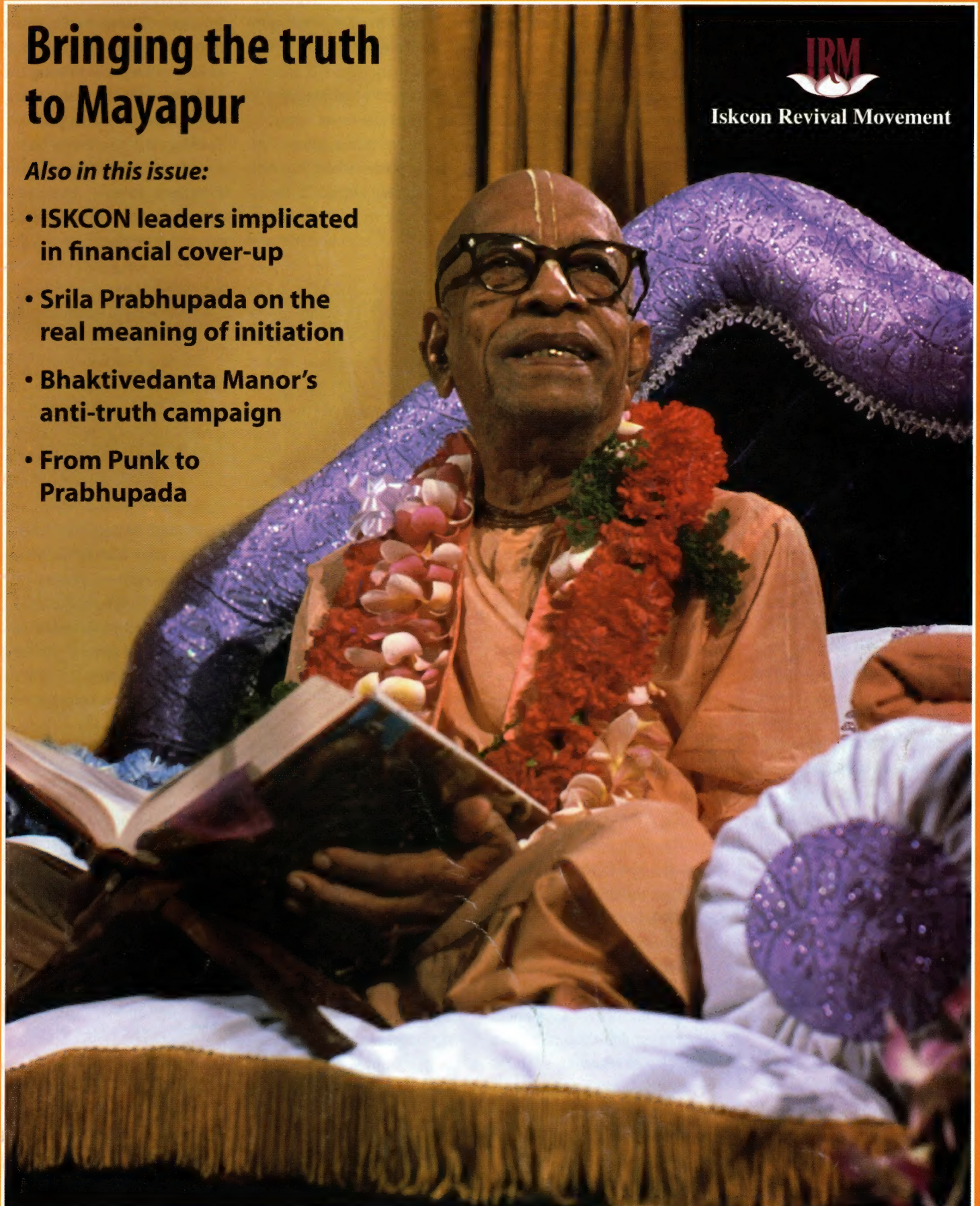
Bringing the truth to Mayapur

Also in this issue:

- ISKCON leaders implicated in financial cover-up
- Srila Prabhupada on the real meaning of initiation
- Bhaktivedanta Manor's anti-truth campaign
- From Punk to Prabhupada



ISKCON Revival Movement



Speaking the truth for the benefit of all



BACK TO PRABHUPADA

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Founded under the inspiration of
**His Divine Grace A.C.
Bhaktivedanta Swami
Prabhupada**, Founder-Acarya,
International Society For Krishna
Consciousness (ISKCON)

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Dear Devotees,

Welcome to the 3rd issue of *Back To Prabhupada*. We have had an even greater response to the 2nd issue of BTP than we did to the inaugural issue – twice as much actually – and this is reflected in the fact that we have had to allocate an extra page for our readers' letters. Even still, there are many letters we could not include and so I would like to apologise if yours was left out. In addition, there is the usual mix of stories, demonstrating both the need for positive change in ISKCON and examples of that change in action, rounded off with evidence presenting the real instructions of Srila Prabhupada.

With this 3rd issue of *Back to Prabhupada* we would also like to encourage you to think about getting involved with the ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM). A survey of ISKCON members taken back in 1996 by eminent scholar Prof. Burke Rochford showed that a majority of congregational members in North America agreed with the *ritvik* position (i.e. the IRM's position that Srila Prabhupada is the real initiating Guru in ISKCON):

"The *ritvik* position received some support from among devotee respondents. As might be expected, support for the *ritvik* position was stronger among congregational members and former ISKCON adherents [See III(g-i)]. Yet there is a substantial minority of full-time members who also supported at least some *ritvik* ideas. In North America one in four full-time members, and one in two congregational members (50%) and former ISKCON

members (56%) agreed that "Prabhupada wanted the 11 *ritviks* he appointed to continue as *ritviks* after his departure" (Prof. Rochford report, *Prabhupada Centennial Survey*, 1996)

We can only assume that the number of devotees supporting *ritvik* has grown along with the growing dissatisfaction with the leadership of ISKCON. So we know you're out there, reading the IRM newsletter and BTP, and quietly waiting on the sidelines. But we understand that it can be very tough to stand up for what you believe in. So you go on with your devotional life, but this gnawing doubt just won't go away. One day you get the courage to bring up some of your doubts to a friend, Godbrother, or perhaps the Temple President. But the moment you bring up ANY doubts you are immediately labelled as an "offender" and told that you have no right to "criticize the pure devotee". So perhaps you go back to your service, and keep your doubts to yourself. But they still won't go away, and you still are not sure "Is this person really pure? Are they really going to take me back to Godhead? Should I be following Srila Prabhupada instead?"

If you continue to bring up doubts there are some other things that might happen to you:

- You may be given the heaviest guilt trip you've ever experienced, and made to feel that your doubts are due to your own impurities.
- Perhaps you may be banned from the temple.
- Your Godbrothers and Godsisters may 'excommunicate' you and stop speaking with you.

However, we'd like to encourage you to stand up for yourself and not let these cult tactics keep you from seeking the truth. Many devotees are afraid to speak up for fear of making offenses, but telling the truth about a bogus Guru who is cheating is NOT making offenses, rather it is only exposing the truth for the benefit of all. The IRM is not criticising these people just to make trouble, rather we are only trying to show what happens when disciples disobey the orders of the bona fide spiritual master, Srila Prabhupada.

So we are writing to that percentage of devotees who can potentially support the IRM - we know you're out there, and we NEED your help to return ISKCON back to Srila Prabhupada! Come out of the closet and help us, and you'll find blissful association among your IRM Godbrothers and Godsisters.

The IRM is growing fast and we need more devotees to help establish temples, distribute books, start farm communities, preach, and more. Please help us revive ISKCON for the pleasure of its rightful owner, His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada. You actually have nothing to fear, for the truth is on your side!

Thank You. Hare Krishna and all glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Krishnakant

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Letters to the Editor *(continued on page 6)*

"ISKCON has failed Srila Prabhupada, or should I say correctly the maya ISKCON has not only failed SP but has failed the whole world. For years I simply observed the degradation of a once powerful mission become reduced to a shadow of its former self. The IRM is truly the phoenix rising from the ashes. Now I feel so connected to Srila Prabhupada and a sense of purpose has, beyond a doubt, emerged."

Krsna Bhakta Das, Alachua, Florida, USA

"I received the BTPs. It's really fantastic. I do not know how to express my feeling while reading the magazine. No matter whatever comes, we will distribute the magazines. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada!"

Radhya Prana Das, Penang, Malaysia

"I think I have you to thank for sending me a copy of issue 2 of Back To Prabhupada. It is a very interesting read, and it is good to know there is a core of solid support. Keep up the good work."

Tanya Galliara, London, UK

"We have needed this magazine for a long time. The more people who read it, the better. We've got to get the word out and get Srila Prabhupada back to his right position."

Jennifer Verrusio, New Jersey, USA

"Hi, I just received the latest copy of BACK TO PRABHUPADA - what a fantastic magazine! I am totally devastated at how much of a fool I have been to blindly follow these bogus people. On a positive note I feel RE-BORN with enthusiasm and am beginning to feel Srila Prabhupada's presence everywhere. I want to thank you very, very much IRM. Best wishes."

Ken, Melbourne, Australia

"I really enjoyed going through Back To Prabhupada for the first time. I have been 26 years in ISKCON and have seen many changes in Srila Prabhupada's Divine Mission. Back To Prabhupada magazine gives me a new hope. Please continue this noble service. Jagat Guru Srila Prabhupada ki, Jay!"

Bhakta Nabakishore Das, Imphal (Manipur), India

"I just wanted to thank you so much for sending me BTP 1 and 2 (and incredibly quickly, too). I am amazed and thoroughly convinced. I can't wait to get the next BTP. I actually put off reading a few articles for the day after I got it just because I didn't want it to end. I've been going to ISKCON temples and reading Srila Prabhupada's books since 1985, so I remember the old zonal acarya system, and how it all fell apart. I've gone back and forth to ISKCON ever since, but something always felt wrong - there was no way I could surrender to a person who I could not trust 100%. No 'guru' ever inspired that much trust, and neither did the never-ending stories of flagrantly awful behaviour and falldowns. I have seen over and over how ISKCON gurus say one thing and then do another, and for years I thought my inability to reconcile this was my fault alone. I am happy to say you have inspired me to practice Krishna Consciousness again, with full faith in a true Spiritual Master - Srila Prabhupada."

Amber, China

"You are doing a wonderful thing by counteracting the viciousness of hoaxers by exposing them. Should have been done long ago - could have saved many innocent followers. But better late than never."

Bali Maharaja Das, Calcutta, India

"The spiritual master is eternal, Srila Prabhupada is eternal - If he so desired to remain the Diksa Guru of Iskcon, on what authority his disciples can be justified to deny him that right? Wish you all well."

Srimati Ramrati Chandrihasingh, Amsterdam, Holland

"Very educating. The whole world needs to hear this and know it."

Lalasa mayi devi dasi, New York, USA

"Thank you very much for the recent issue of Back to Prabhupada. I enjoyed it very much & look forward to the next one. (After 6-16-04, I will no longer be here, but can be reached at the Interfaith League of Devotees, NYC). Your ever well wisher,"

Bhaktipada (aka Kirtanananda Swami), Butler Correctional Facility, PA, USA

"The devotees have received the BTP copies. I am personally distributing some copies in Moldova and also devotees from Romania informed me they have distributed all the copies. First of all I want to congratulate you all for so valiantly disrobing bogus gurus and bringing the final desire of Srila Prabhupada known to everyone through this magazine. One Iskcon fanatic devotee warned me that reading this magazine is worse than meat-eating as it has 'blasphemed' the so-called pure devotee Jayapataka Swami. I had 2 hours discussion with that devotee where I explained him about the July 9th letter, Final will of Srila Prabhupada and the success of IRM devotees in book distribution, prasadam distribution and the sincere spirit of dedication to Srila Prabhupada. That devotee was just left with no words to defend the bogus Gurus and himself."

Dr. Aditya Rana, Moldova

"Thanks & keep up the good work. Love the Back to Prabhupada magazine. Let me know when the next issue comes out."

Donald McClelland, Virginia, USA

"Iskcon Movement being one of the topmost movements has been degraded by these so-called gurus in the movement, allowing people like myself to leave the movement. For this IRM I give 100% support to bring Hare Krsna movement back to Krsna. Haribol."

Dave Seetaram, Queens, NYC, USA

"This Back to Prabhupada is great Srila Prabhupada literature. Always IRM literature is logical, rational and very enlivening reading and best source of enthusiasm. All glories to IRM!"

John Byrne, Eire

Thank you so much for BTP 1 and 2. As IRM becomes more and more strong, weaker devotees (of whom I'm one) will be able to support more openly and regularly I think? Must be many apprehensive to speak up due to comfort and shelter of "ISKCON" (it's a nice lifestyle to give up, eh prabhu?). Once BTP magazine gives the platform for "coming out" etc, I'm sure we can be more hopeful of success. (Please accept small donation to BTP). Your wellwisher,"

Saci Suta das, Dudley, UK

"I'm going to involve myself more and more into preaching the sole position of Srila Prabhupada."

Alain Laborie, Peyrefitte du Razes, France

"It breaks my heart and causes me pain to see this useless 'guru' system poisoning Iskcon. It will gladden our hearts when it is cleaned up."

M L Varia, London, UK

ISKCON leaders implicated in financial cover-up

In our last issue we highlighted the amazing story of former ISKCON Guru, Harikesa Swami, who for years had been falsely posing as a completely renounced *sannyasi* and initiating Guru, yet somehow amassed enough money to buy a luxury villa on the French Riviera worth over a million dollars. Stories like this prove that ISKCON's bogus Guru system is an open invitation for huge financial abuse. On the strength of their artificially inflated, special status, the unauthorised Gurus in ISKCON are able to attract vast sums of money from their hapless disciples that should rightly go to the direct service of Srila Prabhupada's institution. Even the corrupt and self-serving GBC, most of whom are themselves posing as initiating Gurus, realised that this problem needed at least some cosmetic attention in order to make it appear that they were policing the situation. After allowing themselves and their cohorts totally unfettered access to potentially vast fortunes for over twenty years, they finally made the following half-hearted and unpublished resolution in April 2000:

3. [UNPUBLISHED] IT IS RESOLVED THAT:

614 [LAW] 1. All GBC

Body members, Gurus, sannyasis, international project directors, Regional Secretaries and Temple Presidents



Trivikrama Swami, ISKCON Guru: "If you don't like it then fire me!"

are required to file annual personal financial reports to the Executive Committee of the GBC Body and, where requested, their national executive body. These reports shall contain a standard Income Statement and Balance Sheet (to be reported in a Quickbooks or other standard software format). The report should also include a list of all ISKCON related bank accounts (including account names, signers and balance) for which these individuals are a signer or have some control. All Guru-daksina must be included in this report. (GBC RESOLUTIONS, 2000)

We said the above measure was "half-hearted" since there was absolutely no mechanism put in place for compelling the Gurus to comply, nor any system for verifying if such reports were accurate. However, even this weak, unenforceable and unverifiable request was totally ignored by most of the 80 or so ISKCON Gurus. The following exchange shows just what some ISKCON Gurus think about greater accountability and transparency. It starts with Jayadvaita Swami (himself an unauthorised Guru) pointing out that hardly any other Gurus had bothered filing financial reports:

From: Jayadvaita Swami
02-Jan-04, PAMHO:7654446
To: GBC Financial Reporting Review

Dear Maharajas and Prabhus,
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

What standard of financial accountability do we expect

from ISKCON's leaders?

In the year 2000 the GBC body resolved that all ISKCON Gurus, sannyasis, GBC members, and international project directors must annually file with the GBC executive committee a personal financial report.

The information asked for is pretty simple: a standard income statement and balance sheet, as well as a list of all ISKCON-related bank accounts over which one has some control. (Any Guru-daksina one might receive is also to be included in the report.) The contents of each report are to remain confidential.

How well has this resolution been complied with?

In 2003, here's how many leaders submitted their reports:

Out of 39 GBC members, 13. Out of 43 other leaders (a conservative figure), 9.

That is to say:

One out of every three GBC members reported. Two out of three did not.

Of the other leaders, one out of five reported. Four out of five did not.

This tally comes from the GBC secretary, who (with executive committee approval) provided it to me at my request. The information is not confidential.

I am sharing this information with you in the hope that doing so will be to ISKCON's benefit.

Hare Krsna.

Hoping this finds you in good health,

Your servant,
Jayadvaita Swami

And here is the curt response from another unauthorised Guru

Trivikrama Swami, who apparently runs his own flea-market business in spite of posing as a renounced *sannyasi*. His response shows how his non-compliance with the GBC's resolution was not due to some accidental administrative oversight, but rather pure contempt for the very concept:

From: Trivikrama Swami
02-Jan-04, PAMHO:7655348
To: Jayadvaita Swami

Before we get too many more righteous letters on this subject please allow me to explain why I have not submitted a financial disclosure.

First of all I thought Iskcon was supposed to be based on "Love and trust". If after 30-35 years of unsalaried service to the society why can't we trust our leaders?

Secondly everyone can understand that the GBC can't enforce this "law". Another example of the GBC passing laws that they can't enforce. How are they going to go and look in everyone's pocket?

If the institution was giving me money to use to do it's work then I could understand why I would have to report to them on how I spent it. I was recently in a interfaith meeting where all the members were receiving good salaries and there I was, older than most of them and with more years serving my church, but I had to go personally to the flea market on some days to come up with the money to pay the rent. This is especially true for those of us who go to new places to start a center.

Sorry but I am not inclined to have to take the time to give this kind of report...If you don't

like it then fire me!
Your servant
Trivikrama Swami

So there you have it from the horse's mouth. He complains about not being paid a wage, even though that is the very definition of a *sannyasi*, and then adamantly refuses to give any account of his income to the very institution he illegally uses as a hunting ground for new disciples - and the resultant Guru-*daksina* (donations from disciples).

Even Gauri Das, President at Bhaktivedanta Manor, who we featured previously as a fanatical and outspoken supporter of ISKCON's deviant Gurus and intimidator of all those who want reform, expressed some bewildered concern at this glaring impropriety:

From:Gauri (das) TKG
04-Jan-04, PAMHO:7661781
To: Jayadvaita Swami

> Therefore
> better to scrap it.
>
> Ys TS

Recently we had to contribute \$60,000 to the legal case in USA. When we discussed sending the money many devotees who work very hard to raise it, asked 'what about Gurus, Sannyasis and leaders who have accumulated gifted money, will they be contributing anything?' And they were serious because there is talk about individuals especially sannyasis and Gurus having amassed gifted money. It may or may not be the fact, but there is an air of distrust.

Is that distrust based upon the activities of our gentlemen

leaders over the last thirty odd years? Or have some of the gentlemen (even a few) acted in ways which may have contributed to the breakdown? Perhaps it was just that the followers have failed to adjust things properly in their minds? Is no remedy the solution?
Your servant
Gauridasa

Above, Gauri Das not only questions Trivikrama Swami's response, but also discloses the fact that Bhaktivedanta Manor recently had to pay a vast sum of money to help bail out the child abuse court case currently under way in the US: "Recently we had to contribute \$60,000 to the legal case in USA." We wonder if Gauri Das has himself disclosed this fact to the many Patrons and congregational members of Bhaktivedanta Manor whose temple donations have been used in such a way? We also wonder if he has told them that ISKCON Gurus were amongst those accused of abusing children? Gauri Das then makes a reasonably accurate prediction:

From: Gauri (das) TKG
02-Jan-04, PAMHO:7654739
To: Jayadvaita Swami

> I am sharing this
> information with you in
> the hope that doing so will
> be to ISKCON's benefit.

I am sure the IRM would be very happy to do something with this information. Unless something is done this will probably end up in their next publication.

The good news: having been stung into action by the above exchanges, and perhaps fearful of an IRM exposé, more Gurus

filed reports this year than any year previous.

The bad news: only about half the Gurus filed reports, and those that were filed fell way below any sort of professional accounting standard. Given past experience, and the above reaction from Trivikrama Swami, it is very hard to place much faith in such "accounts". It is clear from Jayadvaita Swami's summary of this year's performance that even he has his doubts:

From:Jayadvaita Swami
09-Mar-04, PAMHO:7920404

Dear Maharajas and Prabhu,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

This year, for the 2004 GBC meeting, ISKCON's leaders--especially the GBC members--did better in turning in their annual personal financial reports.

Further progress is still to be made.

According to Lilasuka Prabhu, of the GBC Secretariat: Of 106 reports expected, forty-six were received, all but one of the nearly forty GBC members filed a report.

38 Gurus and, apart from them, 21 sannyasis filed no report. The GBC is doing follow-up to obtain the missing reports.

According to hearsay, the quality of the reports submitted was uneven. For example, some leaders chose to exclude from their reports whatever income they received but later distributed to ISKCON projects. They reported neither the income nor the expense.



**Gauri Das,
Temple
President:**
"There is talk about individual Gurus having amassed gifted money"

For future years, I believe, Lilasuka Prabhu is working on a standard reporting format to remedy this shortcoming.

Hare Krsna.

Hoping this finds you in good health,

Yours in Srila
Prabhupada's service,
Jayadvaita Swami

So we have a situation where a large number of people are falsely claiming Srila Prabhupada's disciples for themselves, making loads of money in the process, and then refusing to give proper accounts for their illegal behaviour. Not only this, but even the unrevealing accounts that are filed will never be checked by anyone, ever!

One might ask why anyone in the renounced order, serving within ISKCON, should have any assets in their own name at all? Surely everything should be in the name of ISKCON, and properly accounted for? Yet it has taken these so-called Gurus nearly three decades of unregulated money-grabbing for it to even dawn on them that something might be wrong. The main problem is their false initiator Guru status, since this blinds them and their blind followers to that which should be blindingly obvious: in ISKCON all assets belong to Srila Prabhupada, including money and disciples. Until this deviation is rectified it is hard to see things improving.

Letters to the Editor *(continued from page 3)*

"It is a shame that individuals will seek personal gain rather than act as a collective unit in harmony."

Ms N Gulati, Slough, UK

"Thank you very much. All success to your activities! It seems there is a hope for ISKCON because of the existence of IRM!"
Mahabhava Swarup Devi
Dasi, Sofia, Bulgaria

"I have been in and out of temples for a number of years. I almost wanted to disassociate myself with it all. But I have developed a great love for Krishna and Srila Prabhupada. All this other stuff is too confusing. I just want to follow Srila Prabhupada; it should not be that hard. Thank you for the book and magazine. I hope you will continue to send me more."
Yhselaine, France (by email)

"I believe it is important to disseminate as much as possible all the information on the succession of Srila Prabhupada and the function of the GBC."
Catherine Baquet, Paris, France

"Well done prabhus - at last people and devotees are now seeing the truth - the truth that these false gurus have concealed for many years. The truth will prevail! Srila Prabhupada ki jai!"
Raj Suratwala, Birmingham, UK

"Your magazine is interesting. I never expected what's happening but am not surprised. Please keep me informed on all that happens. This issue needs 'sorting out' urgently."
E. Gathan, London, UK

"Fascinating and very informative! I have a better understanding of the issues involved and why there are such strong feelings on both sides. I believe IRM should succeed."
Derek Williams, NY, USA

"My heartfelt appreciation for everything you're doing to keep us at the lotus feet of our glorious master Srila Prabhupada. Thank you. Hare Krishna. Your servant,"
Sudarsana Caitanya Dasa, London, UK

"Thanks for the two magazines and your constant efforts for successful preaching. The first story I read was the story about 'Coming to Prabhupada' (page 8, issue 2). I was wondering what the younger devotees thought about the ritviks. I like to read about the positive preaching efforts, especially the 25 million plates of prasadam."
Srimad Bhagavatam Das, California, USA

"Dear Iskcon Revival Movement devotees, I got a copy of the first issue of Back to Prabhupada magazine from a devotee last week. I was shocked to find so many hard facts about Gurus today. Thank you for bringing the brutal truths and showing the disease within. Use both the real spiritual message taught us by pure Acaryas and rascaldom of gurus side by side to glorify the real Hare Krsna movement of Srila Prabhupada through this magazine. Keep the good work up. Chant Hare Krsna and be Happy!"
Murari das, London, UK

"Thank you for your great magazine. Keep it up! All glories to Srila Prabhupada! 'The truth will set you free!'"
Denis Bernier, Montreal, Canada

"All glories to Srila Prabhupada and the IRM devotees, thank you for releasing us from the darkness!"
Barry Nixon, Victoria, Australia

"The IRM organisation is doing good work. May God bless your organisation and everybody within it."
G R Nayyar, New Delhi, India

"How really sad, it really brought tears to my eyes to read what little I could from the 'volume 2 winter' issue - the rain had damaged my copy terribly. To be a Prabhupada devotee and do something completely opposite to his teachings (i.e. the gurus) is I think unforgivable. May Prabhupada's soul have peace, and the culprits - I shudder to think of the negative karma they are accumulating. Keep up the good work, Krsna is great."
Rabin Singh, Durban, South Africa

"Hare Krishna prabhus, give me your blessings to do something for Krishna's service. Your das,"
Neeraj Rathi, Bangkok, Thailand

"Love your magazine - A friend gave me one. How can I get it sent to my above address?"
Susan Ferry (Devaki), Florida, USA

"I write to relate yet another happy-ending story. My first contact with the Hare Krishna movement was way back in 1995 when I was then a foreign student in Melbourne. What started out as the practical and perfect solution to all my woe and personal problems soon turned sour as I became more involved. One of the things which really put me off (literally) was the wayward behaviour of some of the so-called "gurus" - which was a far cry from the humble and forever-serving Prabhupada. It takes no genius to guess that they are only pursuing their own glorification and worship rather than furthering the ISKCON causes. Lots of genuine and inquisitive questions were raised regarding this discrepancy but all were brushed aside (as expected). It is considered "bad manners" to question a pure devotee / guru as I was told. Out of frustration, I soon quit chant-

ing and all association too.

About a year ago I received a copy of "The Final Order" from a very nice (and persistent!) devotee called Tusta in Penang, Malaysia. It immediately impressed me as a work of much thought and research. Then there is Back to Prabhupada which is less technical but highly readable. It did not take long to confirm my long-held suspicion that those so-called "gurus" are bogus cheap imitations.

Thanks to the IRM, I am pleased to report that I am now back on track leading a devotee's life, reading Prabhupada's books, chanting and resuming vegetarian diet. It must have pained the IRM alot to air our dirty linen in public but the truth has to be told and the bad weeded out for the ultimate good and the long-term survival of Prabhupada's movement (as discussed in the second issue of BTP). We have heard about Sudama Dasa's personal account in the last issue. Well done IRM! Keep up the good work for the glory of Srila Prabhupada!"
Ewen, Penang, Malaysia

"I have read the magazine and wish to commend you in your efforts to expose the falsity that has plagued Srila Prabhupada's movement since his physical disappearance. It is our duty to protect and preserve Srila Prabhupada's legacy, and the ISKCON REVIVAL MOVEMENT (although seemingly abrasive) has taken up the unpleasant task to expose those who thwart and threaten that mission. I look forward to the day when we can all unite and strictly carry on the orders of our gurudeva, Srila Prabhupada! Your servant,"
Vaisnavandanda dasa, Atlanta, GA, USA

Srila Prabhupada: Our *Diksa* Guru

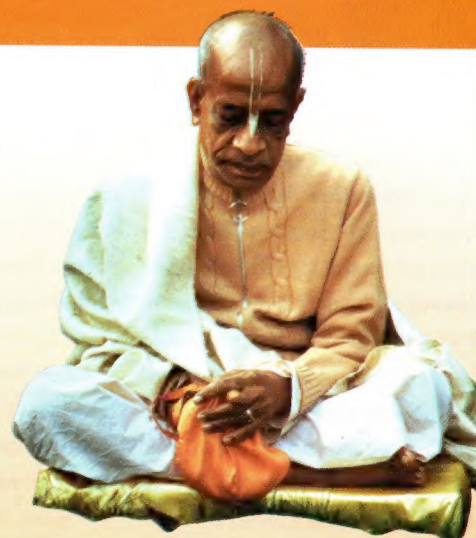
Srila Prabhupada explains the real meaning of initiation (*diksa*)

Diksa Given by Transmitter of Transcendental Knowledge

"In other words, the spiritual master awakens the sleeping living entity to his original consciousness so that he can worship Lord Visnu. This is the purpose of *diksa*, or initiation. Initiation means receiving the pure knowledge of spiritual consciousness."
(*Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya, 9.61, purport)

"*Diksa* actually means initiating a disciple with transcendental knowledge by which he becomes freed from all material contamination."
(*Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya, 4.111, purport)

"*Diksa* is the process by which one can awaken his transcendental knowledge and vanquish all reactions caused by sinful activity. A person expert in the study of the revealed scriptures knows this process as *diksa*."
(*Caitanya-caritamrta*, Madhya, 15.108, purport)



Initiation is the Beginning of Following the Process of Krishna Consciousness - It is Not A Ceremony

"So anyway, from 1922 to 1933 practically I was not initiated, but I got the impression of preaching Caitanya Mahaprabhu's cult. That I was thinking. And that was the initiation by my Guru Maharaja."
(Srila Prabhupada lecture, 10/12/76, Hyderabad)

"Initiation is a formality. First of all you have to decide whether you will abide by the rules and regulations and become Krsna conscious. That is your consideration. You have to decide for yourself whether you are going to take this Krsna consciousness seriously. That is your decision. Initiation is a formality. If you are serious, that is real initiation. If you have understood this Krsna philosophy and if you have decided that you will take Krsna consciousness seriously and preach the philosophy to others, that is your initiation. My touch is simply a formality. It is your determination. That is initiation."
(Srila Prabhupada conversation, 'The Search for the Divine', Back to Godhead, # 49)

"...disciplic succession does not always mean that one has to be initiated officially. Disciplic succession means to accept the disciplic conclusion."
(Srila Prabhupada letter to Dinesh, 31/10/69)

"The chanting of Hare Krsna is our main business, that is real initiation. And as you are all following my instruction, in that matter, the initiator is already there."
(Srila Prabhupada letter to Tamal Krsna, 19/8/68)



IRM Mission Statement

Since the physical departure of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada from our material vision on November 14th 1977, the International Society For Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the great movement which he single-handedly founded in 1966, and which is the only hope for humanity, has undergone a massive deterioration in its spiritual purity. This has been due to various deviations from the instructions and standards given by Srila Prabhupada, the chief of which being his displacement as the sole *Diksa* Guru for ISKCON. The ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) seeks to restore ISKCON to its former glory, purity and philosophical chastity through the re-institution of all the instructions and standards that Srila Prabhupada gave, beginning with his role as the sole authority and *Diksa* Guru for ISKCON. The IRM's position is set out in *The Final Order* - see back page for order details.

Coming to Prabhupada



From Punk to Prabhupada

by Jayananda Das,
New York, USA

To understand how I came to Krsna consciousness is to understand how causeless Lord Caitanya and Srila Prabhupada's mercy is on the most fallen conditioned souls. By the time I was 18 I had been a drug dealer, shot in the leg, robbed houses and people, stabbed, and been jailed for almost two years. The next time I got in trouble I got an offer - jail or the Navy. I chose the Navy.

After getting into great physical shape in lock-up as a result of boxing, playing sports and doing a lot of hard physical labour, I was recommended by my boot camp commander for the US Navy's elite SEALS training, and after an injury early on was transferred out to the regular fleet. That was the darkest, most confused point of my life. I didn't know who God was but I prayed to Him every night to show me some direction, some sign as to what this life was about.

I had become a punk rocker as a form of rebellion toward everything in the world. That's when, on one of my punk rock weekends in Washington D.C, I saw the devotees dancing around in Georgetown one Saturday night. Naturally I did what you see people do on our Times Square *harinamas*. I danced around alongside the devotees, which gave my punk rock buddies a good laugh, but I was respectful. What really struck me though was how happy they looked. How could anybody be that happy?

Shortly thereafter, as a result

of all the confusion in my life, I went AWOL from the Navy and was back out on the NYC streets. I got a security job for the famous hard rock band Bad Brains after they saw me beat four guys with knives with a heavy chain I wore around my waist. That turned out to be a huge blessing because they made me vegetarian and introduced me to a friend of theirs named Vinny who worked at a health food store in the East Village, New York.

This wasn't just any health food store, this used to be "Bhakti Natural" and was once owned by the devotees. Vinny stayed on when the new owners took over and he eventually got me a job working there. He told me about Krsna Consciousness and Srila Prabhupada. Finally he took myself and another friend to the ISKCON temple on 7th Avenue in midtown. Apparently, they had just moved out of a wonderful building on 55th street and even Vinny was confused as to why they would choose this building which, because of the strict zoning laws, forbade people from gathering. There was no Sunday feast allowed and he even had to sneak us in and out every day.

After associating with devotees and reading Srila Prabhupada's books, I began chanting and then wanted to move into a temple. I became a *sankirtan* devotee because I loved the idea of Lord Caitanya's mood - Save the conditioned souls. After a few months I was one of the biggest book distributors and collectors in the Hawaii temple.

Later I came back to New York and this time moved into Sri Sri Radha Govinda Mandir in Brooklyn, and was the biggest collector in the temple having a

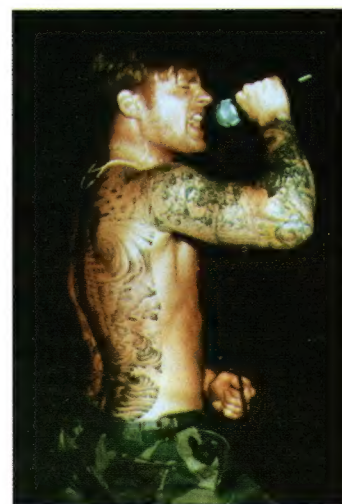
quota of two- to three-thousand dollars a week.

After six months I took Ramesvara as my Guru (*editor's note: one of the original 11 unauthorised ISKCON Gurus*). There was talk of Gurus falling down, even one being beheaded. One devotee who spoke out against false Gurus was even murdered. I was offered a job with a devotee from the New Vrindavan community in West Virginia which I found out later was a South American drug smuggling operation. And then some of the most disgusting allegations began to surface...

There were reports of Gurukula children being molested. They leased out part of the New York temple for disco parties and a bingo hall where gambling, intoxication and meat-eating went on right under the eyes of Sri Sri Radha Govinda. I remember walking up to the temple one day and they had rented it out to members of the NYC Fire Department, who were cooking hamburgers on a barbecue grill right outside the temple. I started to wonder how all this could be happening. Is this what Srila Prabhupada wanted for his movement? How could a Guru fall down if he was an *uttama-adhikari* (pure devotee on the highest platform of God realisation)? I began to feel that Srila Prabhupada was being totally de-emphasized by these leaders and it had become a power struggle to accumulate disciples and donations. When I questioned what I was seeing I was told I was committing Vaisnava *aparadha* (offenses to pure devotees). I contended that it was only Vaisnava *aparadha* if they were in fact acting as Vaisnavas.

I still had faith in Srila Prabhupada and his books and

wanted to get the teachings out to the masses. I started the Cro-Mags (a famous rock band) as John Joseph to get the message out to the kids and the people. Within no time at all we were headlining some of the biggest venues around the country and were getting write-ups in some of the biggest rock music magazines in the world, where I always preached Krsna Consciousness.



**John "Bloodclot" Joseph
(aka Jayananda Das):**
fronting legendary hardcore band, Cro-Mags

Soon after there was a sexual scandal brewing with Ramesvara. He was being accused of having relations with a fifteen-year old girl and he showed up at the house of one of his aspiring disciples Angelica Page (who was the daughter of the actors Rip Torn and the late Geraldine Page, who I had made a devotee), in *sannyasa* (renunciant) garb to deny the allegations. He left the movement several months later.

In the years that followed I decided to work with Kapindra Prabhu who accepted that Srila Prabhupada alone was the Guru. Unfortunately, this had its own problems. He told me that the only way to Srila Prabhupada was by surrendering only to him. He



falsely told me that there were no other devotees on the planet who accepted Srila Prabhupada as the Guru of ISKCON. He even went and took *sannyasa* from the Gaudiya Matha, whom Srila Prabhupada had instructed us not to associate with. The final straw was after I had organized a massive "Hardcore Against Hunger Benefit" for Kapindra Swami's *prasadam* distribution programme. MTV announced the show for a whole month and even came down and filmed it in its entirety. I had over twenty bands play and the biggest rock music publications as well as celebrities flying in from all over the world for this historic concert. Finally, the Hare Krsna movement was about to get some 'good' press for a change. It had always been agreed and understood by myself, Kapindra, all the bands who took part and the media who filmed it that all the proceeds were only to be used to pay to set up a *prasadam* distribution programme. The show was a huge success and I handed Kapindra Swami all the money, many thousands of dollars. He, however, kept the money and said he was NOT going to spend it for *prasadam* distribution as agreed, but to pay his bills.

I told him I was going to be labelled as a scam artist in the press but he couldn't care less. To this day people still ask me what happened with all the benefit money.

All during this time, following the fall-down of my "Guru", Ramesvara, I was barely chanting my rounds and I had a girlfriend. I just never felt enlivened enough by what I saw going on in ISKCON or in Kapindra's programme to make that leap to follow strictly again, but that was all about to change.

I had always wondered if there were devotees out there who were doing something practical to fix the bogus Guru system that ISKCON had installed. The answer came when Brahmabhuta Das and Vani devi dasi, who like me had also been working with Kapindra Swami, went to the IRM meeting in Alachua Florida in 1998.

Upon their return they were very excited. They showed me the video of the meeting and I was completely floored over the IRM's presentation of the facts and *The Final Order* book. I told them to call the IRM and tell them I wanted to sponsor a New York meeting. The rest is, as they say, history. It was so magical, only Krsna and Srila Prabhupada could have arranged it. We got a temple, devotees came on board by the dozens and now we've begun raising funds to bring Srila Prabhupada's skyscraper temple and restaurant back to Manhattan.

As you can plainly see with my crazy *karmi* (non-devotional) life, Srila Prabhupada saved me from a certain death and I owe him everything. I have vowed to fight for the IRM's cause until my dying breath because the IRM is ISKCON. It is Srila Prabhupada's movement. A movement within a movement, not a splinter group of deviants as ISKCON's bogus leaders have claimed and who by the way, have the most to lose by the implementation of Srila Prabhupada as the ONLY DIKSA GURU. I saw the corruption and still see it first hand and don't believe the hype that the current GBC has fixed it. It's worse than ever, with their Guru wars and stealing of millions of dollars. 'Swamis' and so-called 'Gurus' with huge bank accounts while temples close down. It's absurd and any intelligent devotee

can see it's a farce.

We have a saying on the streets of New York, "Fool me once, shame on you... fool me twice, shame on me." Their time of power is coming to an end. Armed with the "THE FINAL ORDER", which by the way is Srila Prabhupada's instructions, not our concocted doctrines as ISKCON leaders falsely claim, it is our duty to tell everyone the truth. As His Divine Grace has said, 'Call a thief a thief so people can hide their valuables.' What is more valuable than your spiritual life? Ask yourself, what happened to this once dynamic movement? Where did all the devotees go?

Fighting for Srila Prabhupada gives me a real purpose, a focus, a reason to want to follow the principles and chant my rounds. My path in life has been a bumpy one, even my spiritual life has had its ups and downs, but as a result of associating with the IRM in the last years I have become fixed up, and have been chanting 16 rounds and following the principles.

The IRM is the shot in the arm this movement needs. If it worked for someone like me it can work for anyone, trust me. They've given me a focus and a drive that's permeated my entire life, even my career goals. I have a new band about to make a record, a movie going into production in the autumn, an autobiography about to be published; and as a result of being thrown back into the spotlight again I've had the opportunity to preach and give Srila Prabhupada's books to some of the biggest celebrities in the world. The great part about it is, I can feel good about inviting them to the IRM's 'Safe Haven' temples where they can hear the truth and not be manipulated.

I have preached to The Beastie Boys, all the MTV hosts, dozens of rock stars, David Blaine, Patti Jenkins (who wrote and directed the Academy Award winning film 'Monster'), Morgan Spurlock (who just won best Director at the Sundance Film Festival), and that's just for starters. I also distributed *prasadam* to members of the government's elite DSS (Diplomatic Security Service) and to New York's notorious Hell's Angels motorcycle gang - and they loved it and offered their compliments to the chef! The point is these people are hungry for the knowledge of Krsna, just as hungry as we were and they are all devotees.

The IRM is arming all of us with the truth and I feel confident more than ever to bring them to the temple because I know they will not get hustled by some bogus Guru. They will only get the mercy of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada, the *Jagat* Guru (Guru for the whole world).

All glories to Srila Prabhupada and all glories to his warriors of the IRM - the real ISKCON.



Readers are cordially invited to follow Jayananda's example by sending us your story of just how you came 'Back to Prabhupada'.

Daring distribution brings the truth to Mayapur

Since launching *Back To Prabhupada* (BTP) magazine, one thing has become patently clear: most general, rank-and-file devotees in ISKCON are sincere and want the truth. The current Guru hoax can only survive so long as such innocent devotees are kept in the dark by ISKCON's dishonest leadership. Yet how to reach them? With this challenge in mind a daring plan was hatched to distribute BTPs in Mayapur, the birthplace of Lord Chaitanya and the world headquarters of ISKCON, during the Gaura Purnima festival (the celebration of the appearance of Lord Chaitanya). Such a course of action was potentially rife with danger, since previously IRM devotees have been put in hospital by resident Mayapur 'devotees' for attempting to preach the truth there. But for the sake of spreading the truth about Srila Prabhupada's glories we felt compelled to at least try. What follows is an account of how, by Krishna's unlimited mercy, the plan succeeded beyond all odds and expectations.

Meeting the *parikrama* party at dawn

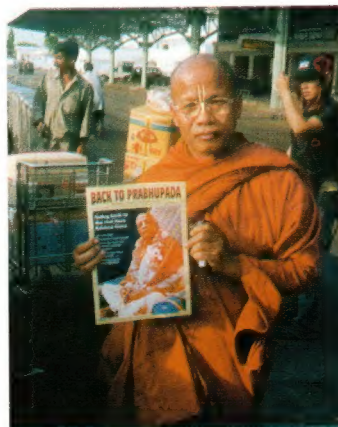
To attempt to distribute the magazines inside the grounds of ISKCON Mayapur would, of course, have been practically suicidal, and yet we knew this was where thousands of devotees would be spending most of the festival. However, one of the festival organisers informed us that many devotees would be going on the Mayapura *parikrama* (a walk to various places of pilgrimage), and that this would give us a window of opportunity to pass out BTPs. Since the *parikrama* is in a public place, it would be harder for the Mayapur management to employ their usual

thuggery and violence. There were major problems, however. The *parikrama* party was to be ringed by police, security guards as well as many ISKCON 'leaders' – the Gurus, *sannyasis* etc. – who we knew would stop us on sight. The trick then was to somehow distribute the magazines without being seen! Yet how was this possible?

Our distributors stood patiently waiting at 4.30 a.m. in front of the birth place of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, fully laden with hundreds of *Back To Prabhupada* magazines. At 6.30 a.m. the *parikrama* party arrived at the site, and began to sit down for a talk. The distributors saw the senior *sannyasis*, the police and security. They knew that as soon as they started handing out the magazine they would be seen, and no doubt physically removed. Then something miraculous occurred. Just as they started handing out the magazine a thick, heavy fog descended on the whole area. This allowed the distributors to weave amongst the sitting pilgrims unseen. By the time the fog had cleared, 248 devotees had willingly received a copy of BTP.

One of the leaders of Mayapur, Bhakti Purusottama Swami, suddenly realised what was going on and began bellowing at the police – "Arrest them! Arrest them!" – pointing to the magazine distributors. The police approached the distributors and told them to stop what they were doing. Bhakti Purusottama Swami was not satisfied with just stopping them, he wanted them arrested. One policeman asked: "Arrested for doing what exactly?" Another policeman looked at the magazine and said: "The front cover has a picture of your Guru

on it, what's so bad about that?" The police concluded that they were doing nothing wrong and so could not be arrested. The temple commander of Mayapur then asked all the devotees to hand their magazines back to him saying: "You should not read this." But no-one took any notice! When they got back to the Mayapur Chandradoya Mandira (temple), Jayapataka Swami (one of the original eleven Guru hoaxers) desperately pleaded with the devotees to throw the magazines "in the trash". This request was also ignored!



One of the many devotees who received BTP at the airport

The airport and station

With this success under our belts the plan moved to the second phase. It was known that when the Gaura Purinima festival ended, all the devotees would leave either via the airport or train station in Calcutta. So our distributors camped out at these places from early morning to late evening, and gave out magazines to the many parties of devotees as they left. Amazingly, following the *parikrama* incident, word had got around about the magazine, and many devotees actually approached the distributors asking for copies! The Chief Security

Officer of Calcutta Airport saw what was happening, and after he read the magazine became so inspired that he allowed us to store two large boxes of BTPs in his personal office.

Predictably, not everyone was happy with our efforts, and when the Mayapur devotees found out what was happening they brought the police to arrest the distributors. Once again they struggled to come up with the name of the crime we were meant to be committing, settling eventually on: 'hawking without a licence'. But when it was pointed out that the magazines were being handed out free of charge, again they were stuck. Humiliated by their inability to stop BTP being distributed, the Mayapur devotees then decided to play dirty.

The next day they came in force and threatened the distributors with violence if they did not stop. But our distributors were undaunted, and continued fearlessly with the task in hand, distributing the truth.

In the space of just a few days over 1100 international devotees received a copy of *Back To Prabhupada*! (see table below). This was all due to Krishna's mercy in assisting us to bring ISKCON 'Back to Prabhupada'.

Srila Prabhupada ki jai!

The Details of BTP Distribution

Mayapur Festival 2004 – no. of copies:

Parikrama:	248
Airport:	509
Train Station:	210
Passenger Bus:	94
Other distribution:	68
Total:	1129

Myth-busters:

The 'Appointment Tape' myths

The main justification used by the GBC for stopping the *ritvik* system of initiation is the May 28th 1977 conversation. The GBC have so far presented four different transcripts of this brief conversation, and a world-renowned forensic expert hired by them said the tape exhibited "strong signs suggestive of falsification" (Norman I. Perle, *American Board of Recorded Evidence*, September 22, 1997). Still, we reproduce below the most commonly used transcript of the conversation, and then answer the most common myths that have arisen from it:

Satsvarupa: Then our next question concerns initiations in the future, particularly at that time when you are no longer with us. We want to know how first and second initiations would be conducted.

Srila Prabhupada: Yes. I shall recommend some of you. After this is settled up. I shall recommend some of you to act as officiating *acarya*.

Tamal Krsna: Is that called *ritvik acarya*?

Srila Prabhupada: *Ritvik*. Yes.

Satsvarupa: What is the relationship of that person who gives the initiation and ...

Srila Prabhupada: He's guru. He's guru.

Satsvarupa: But he does it on your behalf.

Srila Prabhupada: Yes. That is formality. Because in my presence one should not become guru, so on my behalf. On my order, *amara ajnaya guru hana*, be actually guru. But by my order.

Satsvarupa: So they may be considered your disciples?

Srila Prabhupada: Yes, they are disciples, but consider ... who

Tamal Krsna: No. He is asking that these *ritvik acaryas*, they are officiating, giving *diksa*, their ... the people who they give *diksa* to, whose disciples are they?

Srila Prabhupada: They are his disciples.

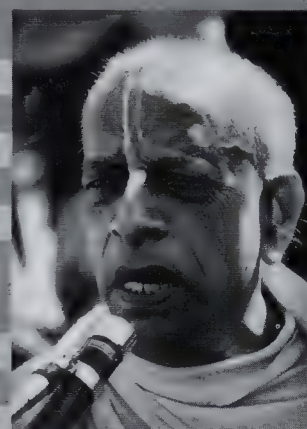
Tamal Krsna: They are his disciples.

Srila Prabhupada: Who is initiating ... his grand disciple ...

Satsvarupa: Then we have a question concerning ...

Srila Prabhupada: When I order you become guru, he becomes regular guru. That's all. He becomes disciple of my disciple. Just see.

(Room Conversation, May 28th 1977)



1) "In the May 28th conversation Srila Prabhupada appoints *diksa* Gurus for after his departure."

FALSE. In the above conversation Srila Prabhupada appoints nobody to do anything. He mentions that he WILL be appointing *ritviks*, and that regular (*diksa* or initiating) Gurus shall only emerge if he so orders (i.e. "when I order", "on my order", "but by my order"). The actual appointment takes place on July 9th 1977, and that was only for *ritviks* (see BTP issue 1 for a copy of this signed directive from Srila Prabhupada).

2) "Srila Prabhupada must have been appointing *diksa* Gurus since he says the words "grand-disciple" and "disciple of my disciple"

FALSE. In the above conversation Srila Prabhupada uses the terms 'grand-disciple' and 'disciple of my disciple', which both mean exactly the same thing, sandwiched between the phrase "when I order". This 'order' has never been produced by the GBC in nearly thirty years of asking.

3) "Srila Prabhupada said the *ritviks* could become initiating, *diksa* Gurus on his 'departure'."

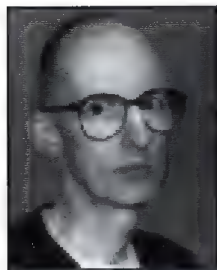
FALSE. Srila Prabhupada never says this. He only links the possibility of future *diksa* Gurus to his giving an "order", not to his 'departure'. The July 9th order says nothing about the representational function of the *ritviks* ever changing, not to speak of on Srila Prabhupada's physical departure.

4) "When asked how initiations would continue after his departure, Srila Prabhupada answers that he will be appointing *diksa* Gurus."

FALSE. As anyone can see, when asked by Satsvarupa about: "initiations in the future, particularly at that time when you are no longer with us", Srila Prabhupada says: "I shall recommend some of you to act as officiating *acarya*." When asked if officiating *acaryas* are the same as *ritviks*, Srila Prabhupada answers: "Ritvik. Yes." Therefore it is clear he wanted initiations to be carried out by "*ritviks*", "particularly" for after his departure, not successor *diksa* Gurus. So why did the GBC stop the *ritvik* system the moment Srila Prabhupada physically departed and suddenly change into *diksa* Gurus?

The ISKCON Guru Hoax Timeline 1978-2004:

Guru Hoax, Part 1:



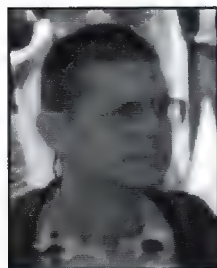
1978

'11 disciples appointed as Gurus'

"During his last months in this world, Srila Prabhupada selected eleven senior disciples to act as initiating gurus who could accept disciples after his disappearance."

(*'Notes from the Editor', Back to Godhead #13-01/02, 1978*)

HH Satsvarupa das Goswami, one of the original 11 self-authorised ISKCON Gurus and Editor-in-Chief, BTG, 1978. (Still acting as unauthorised Guru).



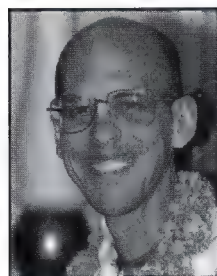
1990

Public confession of Guru hoax

"Srila Prabhupada never said 'here are the next eleven *acaryas*, and they are authorised gurus for the movement'. He did not do that."

(*Video, San Diego Debate, 1990*)

Ravindra Svarupa das, ISKCON GBC voted-in Guru and architect of the 'Guru Hoax, part 2'. (Still acting as unauthorised Guru).



1991

Public apology for Guru hoax

"By the influence of *maya*, illusion, a different idea soon evolved—that Srila Prabhupada had appointed eleven "pure devotees" to serve as the only gurus after him... This zonal guru system, as it came to be called, prevailed in ISKCON for about ten years, until its falseness became clear... In 1986, ISKCON's Governing Body Commission formally dismantled the system. Satsvarupa dasa Goswami, editor in chief during those years, joins with me in apologizing to our readers for BTG's conformity to the "zonal guru" error. In particular, we express our heartfelt apologies for contributing to the hurts and wrongs devotees endured when ISKCON diverged from Srila Prabhupada's instructions."

(*'An Apology', Back to Godhead #25-01, 1991*)

HH Jayadvaita Swami, ISKCON GBC voted-in Guru and Editor-in-Chief, BTG, 1991. (Still acting as unauthorised Guru).

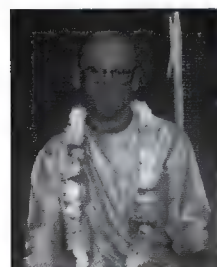


2002

Guru Hoax, Part 1: Myth resurrected

"Almost immediately after Srila Prabhupada's departure, devotees he had requested to give *diksa* fell down. (Of the eleven he named, only four have not fallen.)" (*Siksa outside ISKCON?*, p.28, Lal Publishing, 2002)

HH Sivarama Swami, ISKCON GBC voted-in Guru. (Still acting as unauthorised Guru).



2004

Guru Hoax, Part 1: Alive and well

"A little before departing from this world on November of 1977, His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada asked Srila Acharyadeva, as well as ten other prominent disciples, to accept the role of spiritual masters and initiate disciples to give continuity to the disciplic succession starting with the Supreme Lord, Krishna."

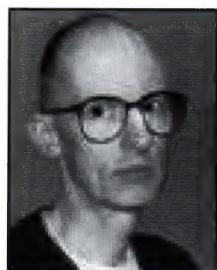
(*From the biography on the official website of Hridayananda das Goswami,*

<http://www.gopala.com/hdg/> viewed April 2, 2004)

HH Hridayananda das Goswami, one of the original 11 self-authorised ISKCON Gurus. (Still acting as unauthorised Guru)

A catalogue of contradictions, confusion and confessions

Guru Hoax, Part 2:

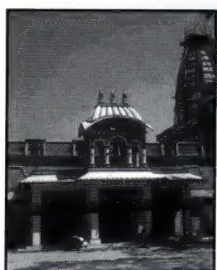


1978

Guru-by-vote ridiculed

"You cannot simply elect a person to the post of the most exalted sainthood"
(*'Notes from the Editor', Back to Godhead #13-01/02, 1978*)

HH Satsvarupa das Goswami, one of the original 11 self-authorised ISKCON Gurus and Editor-in-Chief, BTG, 1978.
(Still acting as unauthorised Guru).

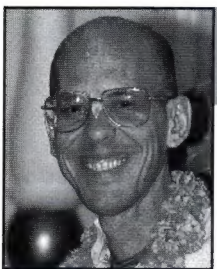


1986

Guru-by-vote implemented

"...any GBC can present a diksa guru candidate before the GBC body. Unless the majority of voting members objects to the nomination, the candidate will be placed on a required one year waiting period...upon majority approval of the body, he may take up the responsibilities of an initiating guru in ISKCON."
(*ISKCON GBC Resolution No. 3, March 30th, 1986*)

GBC: Still "electing people to the post of the most exalted sainthood"

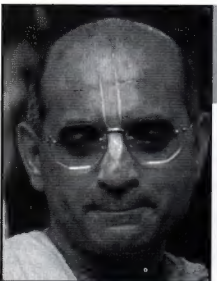


1991

Guru reform: "reasserts Srila Prabhupada's instructions"

"...an ever-growing reform movement overthrew this zonal guru system and reasserted Srila Prabhupada's original instructions."
(*'An Apology', Back to Godhead #25-01, 1991*)

HH Jayadvaita Swami, ISKCON GBC voted-in Guru and Editor-in-Chief, BTG, 1991. (Still acting as unauthorised Guru).



2003

No Guru reform: "defective system...going in the wrong direction"

"My perception is that it was not actually a reform. It was kind of watering down the same misconception and continuing...that defective system may have been watered down to some extent but it's still prevailing. After Harikesa fell down in 1998, in 1999 I proposed that it's obvious that we are going in the wrong direction."
(*July 20th 2003 Meeting, Toronto*)

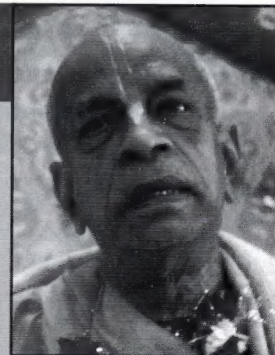
HH Bhakti Caru Swami, ISKCON GBC voted-in Guru. (Still acting as unauthorised Guru).

TIMELESS

Srila Prabhupada condemns Guru-by-vote hoax

"Mundane votes have no jurisdiction to elect a Vaisnava acarya. A Vaisnava acarya is self-effulgent, and there is no need for any court judgment. A false acarya may try to override a Vaisnava by a high-court decision, but Bhaktivinoda Thakura says that he is nothing but a disciple of Kali-yuga."
(*Cc Madhya 1:220, purport*)

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada: the REAL Initiating Guru of ISKCON. (Still acting as fully authorised Guru).



The evidence continues: Letters issued on behalf of Srila Prabhupada

Supporters of the ISKCON Guru hoax claim that the representational initiation system instituted by Srila Prabhupada on July 9th 1977, whereby he would initiate all future eligible members of the institution via the use of priests (*ritviks*) acting on his behalf, was only set up as a temporary measure. In the first issue we reproduced the original directive, signed by Srila Prabhupada, where there is no mention that the *ritvik* system was just a temporary measure for ISKCON. The only indication of the directive's duration is the word 'henceforward', which simply means 'from now onwards'. It is interesting to note that at around the time of the July 9th directive, several other letters concerning the *ritvik* system were issued by Srila Prabhupada's leading disciples whilst acting in an official capacity on his behalf, and not one of them gave any hint that the *ritvik* system was only a temporary, stop-gap measure. Below is a transcribed conversation between Srila Prabhupada and his secretary Tamala Krsna Maharaja wherein he is dictating a letter to one of his selected *ritvik* initiators, Hamsadutta Das:

Tamala Krsna Maharaja: Upendra and I could see it for the last... [break]

Srila Prabhupada: "And nobody is going to disturb you there. Make your own field and continue to become *ritvik* and act on my charge. People are becoming sympathetic there. The place is very nice."

(Room Conversation, July 19th, 1977)

Above Srila Prabhupada says: "continue to become *ritvik*". He does not say "continue to become *ritvik* until I depart, and then become an initiating Guru"; nor does he say "continue to become *ritvik* for the time being only." He just says "continue". This same word ends up in the final letter:

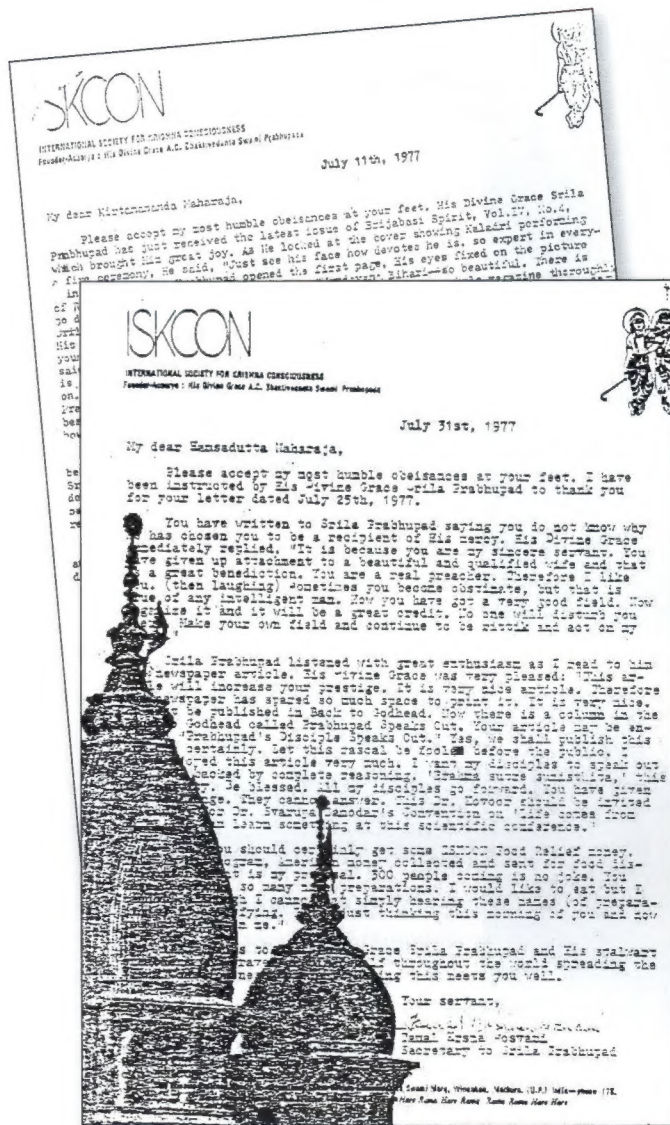
July 31st 1977

"Now you have a very good field. Now organize it and it will be a great credit. No one will disturb you there. Make your own field and continue to become *ritvik* and act on my behalf."

Although Hamsadutta was one of the original eleven Guru hoaxers, he has since capitulated, admitting he was only ever authorised to act as a *ritvik*. A similar letter was sent by Srila Prabhupada's secretary to Kirtanananda Maharaja (another of the original deviators) on **July 11th 1977:**

"A letter has been sent to all the Temple Presidents and GBC which you should be receiving soon describing the process for initiation to be followed in the future. Srila Prabhupada has appointed thus far eleven representatives who will initiate new devotees on His behalf. You can wait for this letter to arrive (the original has been sent to Ramesvara Maharaja for duplicating) and then all of the persons whom you recommended in your previous letters can be initiated."

Above we see the *ritvik* system described as: "the process for initiation to be followed in the future." It does not say "the process for initiation to be fol-



Copies of the letters issued on behalf of Srila Prabhupada.

lowed for now", nor "for the time being", nor "until the *ritviks* turn into *diksa* Gurus."

We also have no words in any letter or document of that time that give any notion that the *ritvik* system was just a short-term measure. There is no statement from Srila Prabhupada that even hints that this system was to terminate on his departure. Rather, as we saw in the last issue, Srila Prabhupada's Last Will and Testament stated that whatever was running in ISKCON at the time of Srila Prabhupada's departure "will continue as it is

now" and "there is no need of any change".

So we have the following words being used by Srila Prabhupada and his most senior men in relation to the applicability of the newly instituted *ritvik* system of initiation:

**"continue", "future",
"no need of any change"**

Hence the convergence of all the evidence says just one thing: the *ritvik* system should still be running within ISKCON.

Update on Bhaktivedanta Manor's anti-truth campaign

Readers of our last issue will no doubt vividly recall the letters sent by Gauri Das, the Temple President of Bhaktivedanta Manor (the headquarters of ISKCON in the UK), to Life Members and IRM members with various false and bizarre claims about the IRM, including an insinuation that we somehow controlled BBC programming and that the IRM consisted of just three or four people! This campaign by the management of Bhaktivedanta Manor to suppress the truth at all costs has now been taken up by its Director of Communications, a Mr. Henry Dom (Hari-dhama Das). This is an official email sent from his office to ISKCON members throughout the UK:

From: Hari-dhama (das)
MG (Director of UK Communications)
Date: 1 Dec 2003
Subject: URGENT global message

RITVIK STATEMENT

The Ritvik group regrettably continues their smear campaign against ISKCON. A "Back to Prabhupada" magazine is currently being circulated. Its content is malicious and motivated

Their questionable action necessitates a legal response from ISKCON. To respond publicly and privately at this stage to their crusade would compromise our case. A further statement will follow suit."

Issued on behalf of the UK Yatra by Hari-dhama dasa of the ISKCON UK National Communications Department (NCD)

The above 'RITVIK STATEMENT' was nothing but a bluff. No legal case has been filed against the IRM over its publication of *Back to Prabhupada*, nor is it likely there ever will be one since the magazine contains nothing but truth and documented facts. One dissatisfied congregational devotee wrote to Hari-dhama Das with the following observation:

From: "visnurata das"
To: "Hari-dhama (das)"
Date: Tue, 2 Dec 2003
Subject: Re: Concern

Dear Prabhu
PAMHO. AGTSP.

Surely the maliciousness you mentioned in your Ritvik statement was caused by the 250 Mayapur devotees who attacked the Calcutta temple, according to the newspaper reports in the ritvik's

Hari-dhama Das' reply (below) proves he had not even bothered to read the very magazine he was being paid by Bhaktivedanta Manor to 'smear':

From: "Hari-dhama (das)"
To: "visnurata das"
Date: Tue, 2 Dec 2003
Subject: Concern

The maliciousness I am referring to is in relation to the content of the magazine. I am not aware of the connection with the Calcutta temple.

Anyone who actually read, or even skimmed, the contents of the first issue of *Back to Prabhupada* would know that on page 14 were two easily visible newspaper reports – one from *The Asian*

Age, the other from *The Times of India*, describing in graphic detail the assault on the ISKCON-IRM Calcutta temple by the "250 Mayapur devotees" referred to above. We wonder how happy Patrons of Bhaktivedanta Manor would be if they knew that their hard earned donations were being used to pay for such blatant disinformation as this?

Young Hindus who visit Bhaktivedanta Manor are encouraged to join the Temple's 'Pandava Sena' youth group. Below is an email sent by the Chairman of the Pandava Sena to all its members on the issue of the IRM and *Back to Prabhupada*:

From: "iskconps"
To: PandavaSena
Date: Tue, 17 Feb 2004
Subject: maggots

Hare Krishna

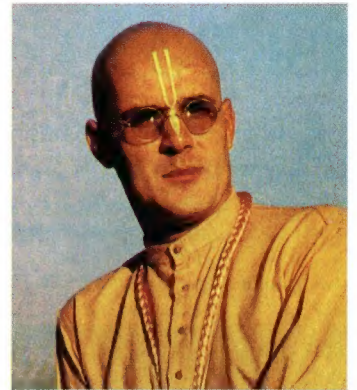
I'm sorry to have to repeat myself, but the maggots just won't go away!

So please, please, please!, if anyone contacts you, emails you, or stops you in the street, trying to tell you about how ISKCON has got the philosophy wrong about the Guru Parampara, ignore them. Including that magazine "Back to Prabhupada"!!!

We will have a training course for those of you who wish to attend on a Sunday morning soon (if you would like to know more - and we encourage that you do!).

Till then, avoid maggots, not good for the stomach :o)

In your service
Sandipan Krsna Dasa



Hari-dhama Das (Henry Dom):
communication problems

We wonder how happy Patrons and supporters of Bhaktivedanta Manor would be to learn that their own children were being programmed with this type of cultic and intolerant behaviour? We can add this to the statements made by Manor President, Gauri Das, who said on BBC radio last year that accepting Srila Prabhupada as the *Diksa* Guru of ISKCON was tantamount to preaching "atheism", and that people who supported the idea were like "barking dogs"!

One thing we learn from history is that no amount of inflammatory language, threats, bans, violence or censorship has ever prevented people from getting to the truth eventually. This will particularly be the case with a movement whose very purpose and founding principle is to bring light and truth to humanity at large. We can only pray that the management of Bhaktivedanta Manor will one day decide to change course and live by such principles. *Satyam vijayate* – the truth is always victorious!

Back to Prabhupada BACK ISSUES!

To receive back issues of BTP, and to subscribe to our email newsletter, please write to:
irm@iskconirm.com
All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

ISKCON Leaders Preach "Fallible Guru" Hoax

A hoax by definition has no substance, built as it is on a foundation of lies and fabrication. The great Guru hoax is revealed whenever ISKCON leaders try to explain how their Gurus, who are meant to be current links in an infallible chain of liberated spiritual masters, can frequently fall back into illicit behaviour. Since Srila Prabhupada makes it clear that such bona fide Gurus in the disciplic succession never deviate, the perpetrators of the hoax have had to invent their own philosophy to convince their followers that they can.

ISKCON leaders contradict ISKCON Founder-Acarya!

ISKCON Gurus:



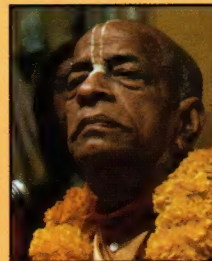
HH Jayapataka Swami, self-authorised ISKCON Guru:
Initiating Gurus can "**deviate from spiritual practices**... act demonically... become fallen... hopelessly entangled in sense gratification... take on demoniac qualities... and violate one or more of the regulative principles" (co-author, *Gurus and Initiation in ISKCON, Laws of ISKCON* 1.5.4.1; 1.5.4.4; 1.7.1; 1.7.2.1; 1.7.2.2; 1.7.3, 1995)



HH Bhakti Caru Swami, ISKCON GBC voted-in Guru, GBC Chairman 1988-89:
"**Initiating gurus have fallen** from the strict path of devotional service" (*Guru-Asraya: Maintaining Shelter in the Guru-Parampara*, GBC approved paper, March 19, 1989)



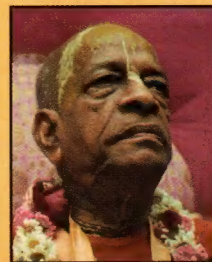
HH Jayadvaita Swami, ISKCON GBC voted-in Guru:
"**FACT:** ISKCON gurus have usurped and misused money, and diverted other ISKCON resources for their own personal prestige and sense gratification. ISKCON gurus have had illicit sexual intercourse with both women and men, and possibly children as well" (*Where the Ritvik People Are Right*, Jayadvaita Swami, 1996)



Srila Prabhupada:

"A bona fide spiritual master is in the disciplic succession from time eternal, and he **does not deviate at all** from the instructions of the Supreme Lord." (*Bhagavata Gita*, 4:42, Purport)

"There is **no possibility** that a first class devotee will fall down." (*Caitanya-caritamrita*, Madhya, 22.71, purport)



"A guru cannot be bad, for if someone is bad, he cannot be a guru. You cannot say "bad guru." That is a contradiction... A guru cannot be bad. **There is no question of a bad guru**" (*Science of Self-Realisation*, Chapter 2, 'Choosing a Spiritual Master')



"The pure devotee is **always free** from the clutches of Maya (illusion) and her influence." (*Srimad-Bhagavatam*, 5.3.14, purport)

ENLIGHTENMENT:

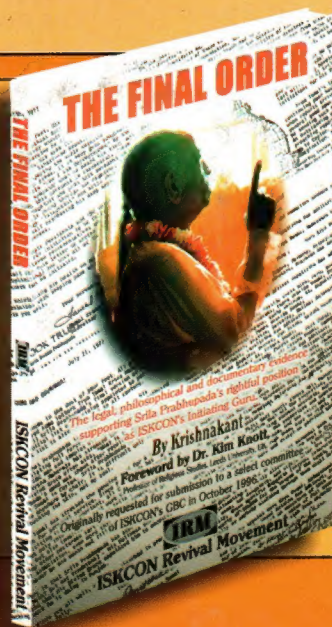
The solution to all this ISKCON Guru confusion is clearly explained in the book "**The Final Order**".

To order your copy, please email us:

irm@iskconirm.com

or fill out the enclosed reply card

or write to our address given on page 2.



THE BOOK THE GBC DOES NOT WANT YOU TO READ!

"I hope this book will be read carefully and discussed widely because the profound issues it raises demand consideration at all levels. Every devotee has a real stake in the matter."

From the Foreword by Professor Kim Knott, Head of Religious Studies, Leeds University, UK